

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 L-03 H-03 SAJ-01 SCS-03 SCA-01

SY-04 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 DRC-01 /091 W

----- 109623

R 101502Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8653

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (NEMEC, DIANA)

SUBJECT: AMERICAN'S SOVIET FIANCEE ASSAULTED AND HOSPITALIZED

REF: MOSCOW 6629

VARIOUS SOVIET EFFORTS TO DATE TO THWART NEMEC-IGNASHEV MARRIAGE WERE REPORTED IN MAY 6 INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE.

2. MAY 10 NEMEC REPORTED TO EMBASSY THAT MORNING MAY 9 IGNASHEV WAS ASSAULTED IN DOWNTOWN MOSCOW. SHE SAID THAT EVENING OF MAY 8 SOVIET FRIEND WHO LIVES ON LENINSKY PROSPEKT HELD PARTY BECAUSE OF IGNASHEV'S IMPENDING ENTRY INTO ARMY ACTIVE DUTY. IGNASHEV SLEPT A FEW HOURS AT FRIEND'S APARTMENT AFTER PARTY, AND LEFT ALONE ABOUT 7 A.M. MORNING OF MAY 9, THE SOVIET HOLIDAY, VICTORY DAY, TO CATCH TAXI HOME. WHILE AWAITING TAXI A MAN ASKED HIM FOR A CIGARETTE OR DRINK. WHEN IGNASHEV SAID HE HAD NEITHER, A SCUFFLE ENSUED, AND IGNASHEV WAS STRUCK ON HEAD FROM BEHIND, HE BELIEVES BY A SECOND ASSAILANT HE DID NOT SEE.

3. NEMEC SAID IGNASHEV SUFFERED CONCUSSION AND CRACKED SKULL,
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AND HAS BEEN HOSPITALIZED AT FIRST CITY HOSPITAL ON LENINSKY

PROSPEKT. SHE VISITED HIM THERE WITHOUT DIFFICULTY.

4. COMMENT: INCONVERSATION WITH CONSOFF NEMEC DID NOT LINK UP ASSAULT ON IGNASHEV WITH RECENT PATTERN OF SOVIET HARASSMENT IN THIS MARRIAGE CASE. HOWEVER WE DO NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THT SHE WILL PLACE INCIDENT IN THIS CONTEXT IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS WITH WESTERN PRESS. EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION ONE WAY OR ANOTHER SUGGESTING THAT IGNASHEV WAS BEATEN UP BY KGB OR BY SOMEONE TRYING TO HARASS OR FRIGHTEN HIM AND NEMEC FROM IMPENDING MARRIAGE. WHILE SUCH SIDEWALK CRIMES DO OCCUR IN MOSCOW, AND WHILE THERE MAY HAVE BEEN MORE DRINKING OUT ON THE STREETS ON VICTORY DAY THAN USUAL, SUCH INCIDENTS ARE NEVERTHELESS NOT COMMON HERE. END COMMENT.

5. REF PARA 3 REFTTEL, NEMEC REPORTED IGNASHEV'S BROTHER-IN-LAW IS IGOR ALEKSANDROVICH OGNETOV, DESCRIBED AS AN APPARATCHIK IN FOREIGN RELATIONS DIVISION OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHO SPECIALIZES IN VIETNAMESE AFFAIRS.
STOESSEL

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